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## How Japanese View Their Role in Asia

ONE OF THE INTERESTING points that President Marcos made in his now famous state-of-the-nation message to Congress was the one on the role of Japan in Asia. "Japan," the President said somewhere in that speech, "is being increasingly talked about as the inheritor of the role of the United States..."

The President didn't spell out in detail exactly what he meant by that. "My administration is undertaking an intensive study of the problem," was all that he said. It is an intriguing thought, this thing about the kind of role Japan might play in Asia. It merits some discussion now.

Many who have visited Japan these last few years have noted that Japanese attitudes to the world are undergoing change, and this is especially so after the development in China of nuclear weapons. These observers point out that Japan is not in any way interested in attempting to contain China on land. Neither does it wish to be involved in any kind of wars, if it can help it, nor engaged in wars on behalf of weak Southeast Asian states. Or, for that matter, on behalf of the United States which had helped it grow into the economically wealthy nation that it is today.

The reasons for such attitudes, it has been said, are that Japan is still suspect among many Asian nations, that the Japanese believe only economic measures will produce the strength to resist Chinese or other Communist attacks, and that Southeast Asia must develop a political balance.

BUT DISREGARDING these factors for the moment, this point is whether Japan has the potential to become a nuclear power.

Observers say that the Japanese have not been watching idly by while the Chinese have been building up their nuclear capacity. It is said that Japan has in operation fourteen research reactors and that it has enough uranium to make, if it took the additional steps, up to 100 atomic bombs a year. In fact, it is said that they have been moving closer to the point where they could build their own nuclear missiles capable of landing on Peking or on the Chinese nuclear sites in western China!

Of course, Japan is not yet manufacturing atomic bombs. But there are people in Japan, a small section on the political right, who would want it to begin building nuclear weapons. They are the ones who say that Japan should not find herself defenseless against possible Chinese nuclear blackmail when the Americans go home.

Others are of the belief that Japan may be near being a great power but that it never will be a great power, never have its due international respect and status unless it becomes a nuclear power.

When and if this happens, will Japan be on the side of the free nations of Asia and the Philippines?

### Dangerous Game

UNDIPLOMATIC TALK... "Stirring up" student unrest or a revolution is a dangerous game. If those who do so hope to be followed by the students or the people, the opposite effect is also possible. There are some who may have the courage to follow, but there also are those who may think differently. Take the example of Brutus and Cassius. Not only did they fail to gain popular support as they had expected after doing away with Caesar, but were even forced to withdraw into the capitol for fear of the populace! Senator Ninoy Aquino, who's got a copy of the "Who's Who in CIA" published in East Berlin, wasn't surprised when he didn't find his name or that of President Marcos or Senator Gene Magsaysay or any of his newspaper friends in it. But he was surprised when he read such names as Lyndon B. Johnson, Hubert H. Humphrey, Dean Rusk, Walt Rostow, Bill Moyers, the late famous journalist-Vietnam war expert Bernard Fall, and on down the line, the great, near-great, almost-great names in U.S. government, journalism and academe. Surprise, surprise!

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(Who's Who in CIA)